



### FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES — APRIL AND MAY

*Trip to Farallon Islands*—On Sunday, April 9, 25 members and other trusting innocents made the trip to the Farallons in the teeth of a forty-five mile gale. Most of those who weren't seasick suffered from varying degrees of dampness, the maximum being complete saturation. Fortunately, the day was sunny and comparatively warm. Had it been overcast some of the less hardy might have frozen to death. Among the birds seen dizzily through spray-covered binoculars were 2 Black-footed Albatrosses, 2 Rhinoceros Auklets, a Cassin's Auklet, a Tufted Puffin, Pigeon Guillemots, Murres, 5 or 6 Sooty Shearwaters, and Black Brant. When the poet remarked, "April is the cruellest month," he must have had sea-going bird-watchers in mind. — *H. Cannon, Historian*

*Trip to Alameda*—More than 150 rosy-breasted knots were one of the thrilling sights of the day for about 35 members and friends who met at Lincoln Park in Alameda, on April 16. The knots were among a concentration of birds huddling on small spits of land off McCartney Road on Bay Farm Island.

Levelling, draining and filling in of the old loafing grounds off Frontage Road in Oakland have dispersed the birds that used to loaf in the marshes, at high tide. The birds seem to be far fewer than in other years and to be spread over a wider area. When the tide is approaching high, the heaviest concentration is in the McCartney Road vicinity.

The group visited several new places. From the east shore of Alameda, looking over San Leandro Bay, we had a good view of Grebes, Godwits, Sandpipers, and Avocets. On Bay Farm Island, birds in especially vivid breeding plumage included Black-bellied Plovers, Avocets, Dowitchers, and a very few Ruddy Turnstones. At Washington Park, a pair of Hooded Orioles nesting in a palm tree were of special interest. We also saw the nesting sites of Sparrow Hawks and Mockingbirds.—

*Elsie Roemer, Leader and Historian.*

Trip to McCoy Ranch—Despite a wintry weekend on April 22,-23, 18 persons on Saturday and 25-30 on Sunday birded at the McCoy Ranch near Livermore, observing a total of 61 species in the two days.

Not everyone saw the phainopepla but we all had good views of the Lewis' Woodpecker and the Bullock's oriole, and on a sand bar in the little stream beyond the ranch, we saw several Audubon's Warblers in breeding plumage. The owl's clover in the fields was as luxuriant and lovely as we have ever seen it in that area.

The highlights of the day came after the Sunday trip was over. Some of the folks who went home by way of Patterson saw a Roadrunner while the last cars to leave Arroyo Mocho were caught in a short but honest-to-goodness snowstorm.—*Erlene Hevel, Leader and Historian*

Trip to Carlin Ranch—On Saturday, April 29, 25 people pioneered the trek into the hills of the Carlin Ranch east of Mt. Hamilton Road. The special birds for which we had been prepared were not at all cooperative and the others quiet, though the day was mild and mostly clear. However, by 1:45 p.m., when it was necessary to be out of the ranch, we did observe 45 species. Afterward, Marie Mans and the historian drove on to the mines where we saw three Lawrence's Goldfinch, many Lazuli Buntings, several Sage Sparrows and one Black-chinned Sparrow. Beyond Patterson Pass we saw a Canyon Wren, a Raven, a Mountain Bluebird and a Horned Lark.—*Oliver T. Allen, Historian*

Trip to the Sonoma Coast—Ten observers braved the elements on Saturday, May 6, and were rewarded with a fine day of birding along the Sonoma County coastline. A few mild showers were all that fell from the cloudy skies which kept the lighting excellent for our observations.

Bodega Bay lived up to its reputation as a good birding spot. However, it is, unfortunately, undergoing extensive filling which will eliminate much of the mud-flat area now available to wildlife. Four species of plover were seen to excellent advantage. Common Loons were just that—many in top plumage. However, an equally handsome but less often seen Artic Loon proved much more popular with the observers. Just so did the Red-necked Grebes take the play away from the many fully plumaged Horned Grebes. Because of the extremely low tide, most of the shorebirds were noted from distances which were unsatisfactory. This was particularly so in the case of a mixed group of Knots and Dowitchers.

Several Wandering Tattlers were observed on the rocks along the coast. Our search for the Tufted Puffins turned up nothing more than a pair of Pigeon Guillemots. Surprisingly, in this realm of Vaux Swifts, the only Swift noted was a White-throated Swift feeding over the lower stretches of Willow Creek. 98 species were noted during the day.

—*Gordon L. Bolander, Leader and Historian*

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Berkeley, Miss Helen Bocher, Mrs. W. B. Flick, Miss Pauline C. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. McCallum, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rosenzweig, Ruth C. Steinkamp, and Mrs. Phoebe A. Sumner; from El Cerrito, Miss Violet B. Marshall; from San Francisco, Miss Frances Campbell, and Mr. E. C. Earle. — AGNES OCZKEWECZ, Membership Chairman

## ANNUAL DINNER MEETING — JUNE 8

The 519th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, June 8, in the Horizon Room of the Claremont Hotel, Berkeley. Everyone is urged to attend. Guests are welcome.

6:00 p.m. Dinner RUSH CHECKS FOR RESERVATIONS TO:  
Lee Stallcup, 6227 Buena Vista, Oakland  
Price \$4.00 per person inc. tax and tip.

7:00 p.m. Reports of officers and chairmen  
Election of officers (See slate below)

8:00 p.m. Program—Talk with slides by Dr. Joel F. Gustafson, Professor of Biological Sciences, San Francisco State College on *The Nature of a Naturalist*. — MABEL EARLE, Program Chairman

## NOMINATED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 1961-1962

President ..... Miss Aileen Pierson  
Vice President ..... Mrs. David Snyder  
Vice President ..... Miss Jacqueline Watkins  
Treasurer ..... Mrs. Erlene Hevel  
Recording Secretary ..... Miss Marjorie Reu  
Corresponding Secretary ..... Miss Patricia Tiggard  
Director ..... Mr. A. W. Larson  
— PHYLLIS A. ZWEIGART, Nominating Committee Chairman

## FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE

Saturday, June 3, to Fleishhacker Zoo and beach areas. Bank Swallow, a bird of unique nesting habit, will be the main attraction. After birding in and around the zoo a walk will be taken along the beach to observe the swallows nesting in the banks bordering on the shore line. Come prepared to walk in the sand. Meet at the north entrance to the zoo on Sloat Blvd., at 9:15 a.m.—ERLENE HEVEL, Leader, PR 5-6498.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11, to David Snyder's cabin at Clark Station Summer Homesites in the northern Sierra. Elevation 6,200 ft. Also, to marsh area near Marble's Hot Springs in the Sierra Valley, east of Yuba Pass. Take Highway 40 to Auburn, then Highway 49 north to Clark Station, which is nine miles beyond Sierra City. Another route: take Highway 40 to Truckee thence by Highway 89 west to Sattley; approximately one mile northwest of Sattley, turn left on Highway 49 and cross Yuba Pass, Clark Station is two miles west of Yuba Pass. Best accommodations, Pioneer Lodge, two miles west of Clark Station on Highway 49. For reservations, phone Pioneer Lodge, via Grass Valley, or write Pioneer Lodge, Sattley, California. There are motels in Sierra City, camping at National Forest Service, Lincoln camp ground across Yuba River from Snyder Cabin, Chapman Creek Campground one mile west of the cabin. Meet at cabin, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., on Saturday. Sunday trip to Sierra Valley. Meet at cabin, 8:30 a.m. or at The Kitchen in Sattley, 9 a.m. For map write Mrs. Beth Snyder, Clark Station, Sattley, Calif. or contact Field Trips Chairman.

Tuesday, June 13, to Mills College. The campus with its great variety of planted trees provides a habitat for many birds. Calls and songs can be heard and identified. Diligent search will, no doubt, produce nests and young of resident and summer visiting species. It is a delight just to walk through the campus. Meet at 9:30 a.m., at the fountain just inside the gate at Seminary Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. No. 57 bus makes this stop.—Leader, JEAN STALLCUP, Lockhaven 9-3185.



On Saturday, June 24, to Strawberry Canyon. Meet at 9 a.m., at the entrance to the Botanical Gardens. The habitat, some man made and some natural, attracts a large variety of birds. Hummers can be seen at close range. The calls and songs of Swainson's Thrush, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak and Finches will probably be heard. Two Great Horned Owls were seen last year.

— Leader, HAROLD G. PETERSON, LO 8-7534.

### TENTATIVE FIELD TRIPS, JULY—OCTOBER, 1961

Sat., Sun., July 8,9—Overnight  
Wright's Lake in Sierras

Tues., July 18—Cliff House

Sat., July 29—Golden Gate Park

Sun., August—Rodeo Lagoon

Sat., Sun., Aug. 26, 27—Alameda Foot of  
Park Street

Tues., Sept. 19—Chain of Lakes Golden  
Gate Park

Sat., Sept. 23—Bay Farm Island

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